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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/481,572  
Applicant : SHAN et al.  
Filed : January 11, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1655  
Examiner : M. Meller

Docket No. : 2968-160  
Customer No. : 6449  
Confirmation No. : 5800

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the September 7, 2005 Office Action issued by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified application. A petition and fee for a three-month extension of time extending the due date to March 7, 2006 accompany this Amendment. Please amend the subject application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.